

ATTENTION:
IMPORTANT TOTAL COLIFORM/*E. COLI* (BACTERIA) HOLD TIME
INFORMATION

Subject: Holding Time for Total Coliform/*E. coli* samples collected at Public Drinking Water Systems is being reduced to 30 hours

Important Notice

The Department of Natural Resources has been informed that the Environmental Protection Agency will no longer accept drinking water sample results where the holding time exceeds 30 hours for total coliform/*E. coli*. The samples are collected for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (chapter 809, Wis. Adm. Code). This means that analyzing laboratories will need to invalidate samples (not analyze them) when the time from collection to analysis time is greater than 30 hours. Therefore, the water supplier will have to resample. We are asking the laboratories to **start doing this on 10/01/2012**. This may be difficult for some water suppliers. In some laboratories about 20% of samples are greater than 30 hours old when received.

It is very important that you work with your delivery service. Here are some things to consider:

- Where is the closest drop off point?
- How long does it take for the samples to be delivered to the laboratory?
- What time does the shipment leave?
- Collect your samples as close to the time those shipments leave the shipping facility as possible.
- Discuss with your shipper what delivery options will work best to assure delivery with-in the 30 hour hold time.

If a sample is greater than 30 hours old resampling is required.

SHIPPING INFORMATION:

Possible shipping services may include the following:

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| • United Parcel Services (UPS) | 800-742-5877 |
| • Dunhams | 800-236-7127 |
| • Spee-Dee | 715-341-4960 |
| • Federal Express | 800-463-3339 |
| • US Postal Service | 608-246-1220 |

Be sure to use the appropriate shipping labels for your shipping service to insure that your samples arrive on time to the laboratory.

If shipping options do not allow for timely delivery of total coliform/*E. coli* samples to your normal analyzing laboratory, other laboratory options should be pursued to remain compliant. A list of laboratories certified for total coliform/*E. coli* testing can be located at this link: [http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pk_ws582_lablist\\$.startup](http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pk_ws582_lablist$.startup)

Numerous communities have certified laboratories at their wastewater or public water facilities. While these facilities may charge a nominal fee, the cost is less prohibitive than collecting and shipping “old samples” that will not be analyzed and would require resampling. If you have any questions regarding the new requirement, please contact your Department specialist for details.